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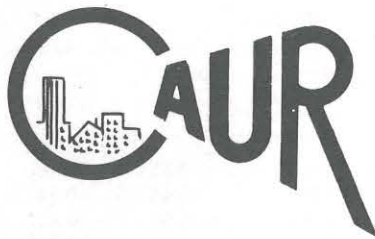
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University of Nebraska at Omaha

REVIEW

of

APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH

Volume IX, Number 11

December, 1981

Components of Demographic Change, 1970-80

Review of Trends in Pottawattamie County

By Roger Corbin

This is the fourth issue of the *Review of Applied Urban Research* devoted to the findings of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. Data currently available include population and housing counts and population differentiated by race and Spanish origin. More detailed data (age specific, sex specific, etc.) are not yet available but should be released by the Census Bureau shortly. CAUR will report these more detailed data in the *Review* as they become available. The author is appreciative of the comments made by Jack Ruff and Murray Frost.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY, Iowa (Map 1) has been unable to maintain the growth experienced during the decade from 1950 to 1960. The 1980 Census showed a count of 86,500, a loss of 491 or .6 percent from the 1970 Census. (See Table 1.)

While the county population stabilized, the City of Council Bluffs lost population for the first time in 40 years. From 1940 to 1970 the city grew at a faster rate than the county as shown in Table 1, but in 1980 the city population was 56,449, about the same as its 1960 population of 55,641.

The City of Carter Lake (Census Tract 212, the only other community in Pottawattamie County within the

Omaha urbanized area, maintained its growth, although at a sharply declining rate. With a 1980 population of 3,438, Carter Lake registered a net increase of 170 persons or 5.2 percent.

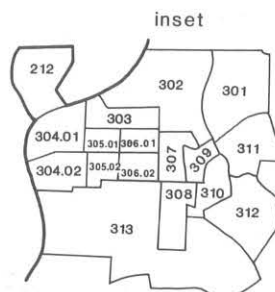
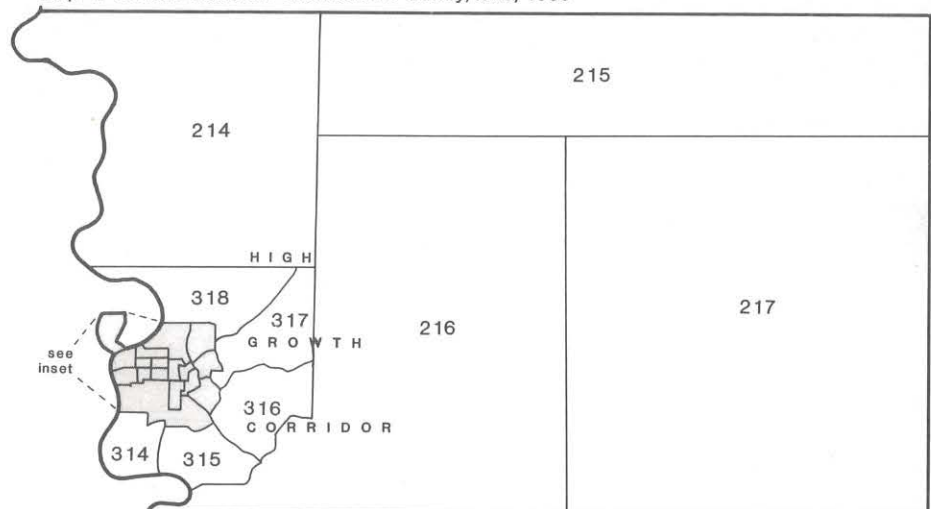
General Trends

Vital statistics help to depict the depth

and types of changes that have occurred. During the past decade Pottawattamie County recorded 14,243 births and 7,726 deaths¹ for a net natural increase of 6,517. Since the county lost 491 persons during the period, the net out-migration was 7,008 persons.

The pattern of demographic change shown in Table 2 indicated that popu-

Map 1. Census tracts of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, 1980



— census tract boundaries
000.0 census tract numbers
0 4 8
miles

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census,
1980.

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lation loss continued in rural farm areas, as distinguished from rural communities, while suburban subdivisions continued to grow. Another major change was that densities lowered within the older part of the City of Council Bluffs with limited growth occurring in the north part of the city (Census Tracts 301 and 302). Growth also occurred in Census Tract 304.01, located along Interstate 29 in the northwest part of the city, which showed an increase of 624 persons or 18.4 percent. The growth in this tract was related to the new apartment construction during the last ten years. The other noticeable areas of increased growth were north of Lake Manawa (Census Tract 313) and the southwest portion of the city that includes Twin City Plaza (Census Tract 314).

All of the other census tracts with the exception of Census Tract 312 in the southwest part of the city have lost population. The greatest changes were in the downtown core (Census Tracts 309, 310, and 311). Cumulatively these tracts lost 2,763 persons or nearly 70.9 percent of the city's total loss. These tracts were affected by an urban renewal project. The tracts commonly known as West Council Bluffs or the "West End" also lost considerable numbers of people. The losses appeared to be fairly even with most of the tracts losing 15 to 19 percent of their total populations. (See Table 2.)

Special note should be given to the population loss in Census Tract 311. This area lost 1,336 (29.8 percent) persons during the decade. It deserves further investigation as it is one of the city's most historic and prestigious neighborhoods.

High Growth Areas

In Pottawattamie County a major factor of change is suburbanization. Three census tracts (316, 317, and 318) on the east side of the city gained 2,826 persons. These tracts lie partially in the city and partially in the county's jurisdiction. Improved transportation access along Interstate 80 has been one of the determinants of the eastward growth.

Black Population

Both Pottawattamie County and the City of Council Bluffs continued to lose black residents. (See Table 3.) The county lost 157 blacks during the last decade, and in the 1980 Census the

TABLE 1 POPULATION CHANGE IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA 1940-1980						
	Pottawattamie County	Percent Change	Numerical Change	City of Council Bluffs	Percent Change	Numerical Change
1940	66,756			41,439		
1950	69,682	4.38	2,926	45,429	9.63	3,990
1960	83,102	19.26	13,420	55,641	22.48	10,212
1970	86,991	4.68	3,889	60,348	8.46	4,707
1980	86,500	-0.57	-491	56,449	-6.46	-3,899
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census						

TABLE 2 COMPONENTS OF CHANGE IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY BY TRACT 1970-1980				
Census Tract	1970	1980	Numerical Change 1970-1980	Percentage Change 1970-1980
212	3,268	3,438	170	5.20
214	2,609	3,405	796	30.51
215	5,701	5,651	-50	-.88
216	4,397	5,528	1,131	25.72
217	5,714	5,320	-394	-6.90
301	5,675	5,726	51	.90
302	2,812	2,969	157	5.58
303	4,676	4,266	-410	-8.77
304.01	3,390	4,014	624	18.41
304.02	3,011	2,479	-532	-17.67
305.01	2,728	2,422	-306	-11.22
305.02	3,138	2,599	-539	-17.17
306.01	2,905	2,445	-460	-15.83
306.02	3,548	3,138	-410	-11.56
307	3,991	3,260	-731	-18.32
308	3,373	3,162	-211	-6.26
309	2,387	1,751	-636	-26.64
310	3,399	2,608	-791	-23.27
311	4,489	3,153	-1,336	-29.76
312	2,837	2,882	45	1.59
313	939	1,295	356	37.91
314	2,630	3,026	396	15.06
315	1,981	1,744	-237	-11.96
316	3,643	4,464	821	22.54
317	2,147	3,042	895	41.69
318	1,603	2,713	1,110	69.25
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census				

TABLE 3 BLACK POPULATION CHANGE IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA 1940-1980				
	Pottawattamie County		City of Council Bluffs	
	Numerical Total	Percent of Total County Population	Numerical Total	Percent of Total City Population
1940	545	.82	537	1.30
1950	638	.92	621	1.37
1960	593	.71	570	1.02
1970	600	.69	569	.94
1980	443	.51	415	.74
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census				

black population accounted for only .51 percent of the total population. With 93.6 of the black residents of the county living in Council Bluffs, the city followed the same trend, losing 154 blacks from 1970 to 1980. The 1980 figures showed that only .74 percent of the city residents were black.

The black population did not show any substantial concentration. (See Table 4.) A minor concentration was found near the downtown core in Census Tracts 306.02, 307, and 308. The 197 black persons in those three tracts accounted for nearly one-half (47.4 percent) of the blacks within the City of Council Bluffs.

Spanish Origin/Other Minorities

Due to a definitional change³ the data on persons of Spanish origin are not comparable. The 1980 Census information indicated that nearly three times as many persons of Spanish origin (1,207 persons) as Blacks lived in Pottawattamie County. Persons of Spanish origin comprised 1.39 percent of the county's population, and no high concentration of persons of Spanish origin existed within the county. A small concentration was found, however, south of the downtown core in Census Tract 308 where the percentage of 5.06 nearly equaled the U.S. average.

No discernible concentrations of other minorities were found (Table 4).

Carter Lake, Iowa

While the Carter Lake community (Census Tract 212) has not continued the dramatic growth of 1950's and 1960's, it has continued to add population (Table 5). The community, however, has definite physical limits of expansion, and the small growth recorded in the 1980 Census may indicate a trend toward more stabilization. The largest minority group is the 98 (2.85 percent) persons of Spanish origin.

Summary

The 1980 Census in Pottawattamie County indicated that population growth has stabilized. The City of Council Bluffs lost population, reversing an upward growth trend established in 1940. The 1980 population of Council Bluffs was approximately the same as at the time of 1960 Census. A definite trend was found toward suburbanization in the county, especially east of the City of

Council Bluffs.

Black population within the county continued to decline since 1950 until it made up a small segment of the population in 1980. Persons of Spanish origin and other minorities showed no significant areas of concentration.

Carter Lake, Iowa continued to show increased growth although at a much slower rate than in the past.

¹Data from the Iowa Department of Health, Vital Statistics Divisions, Des Moines, Iowa.

²Slight tract boundary changes have taken place in Pottawattamie County. The data presented in Table 2 reflect a correction for equal area comparison purposes. Complete figures are available from John Zipay at the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency.

³The 1970 Census definition of Spanish origin (heritage) was based on meeting only one of three criteria: 1) Spanish language, 2) Spanish surname, 3) Spanish origin or descent. The 1970 count was also based on sample data. The 1980 definition was based on identification by the respondent.

TABLE 4 BLACK POPULATION, PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND OTHER RACES IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY BY TRACT IN 1980*						
Census Tract	Blacks	Percent Black	Persons of Spanish Origin	Percent Spanish	Other**	Percent Other**
212	9	.26	98	2.85	51	1.48
214	9	.26	16	.47	13	.38
215	1	.02	32	.57	21	.37
216	—	—	15	.27	11	.20
217	3	.06	14	.26	3	.06
301	14	.24	37	.65	31	.54
302	2	.07	48	1.62	57	1.92
303	12	.28	56	1.31	31	.73
304.01	56	1.40	85	2.12	72	1.79
304.02	2	.08	41	1.65	30	1.21
305.01	3	.12	38	1.57	35	1.45
305.02	29	1.12	58	2.23	38	1.46
306.01	22	.90	37	1.51	26	1.06
306.02	77	2.45	118	3.76	68	2.17
307	71	2.18	81	2.48	75	2.30
308	49	1.55	160	5.06	49	1.55
309	4	.23	31	1.77	32	1.83
310	11	.42	34	1.30	21	.81
311	3	.10	27	.86	30	.95
312	3	.10	16	.56	35	1.21
313	25	1.93	58	4.48	24	1.85
314	8	.26	36	1.19	44	1.45
315	4	.23	15	.86	20	1.15
316	15	.34	23	.52	19	.43
317	5	.16	10	.33	9	.30
318	6	.22	23	.85	18	.66
Total County	443	.51	1,207	1.40	863	1.00
*The data presented are not additive to arrive at a percent minority. **Includes American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and all others. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census						

TABLE 5 POPULATION CHANGE IN CARTER LAKE, IOWA 1950-1980			
	Population	Numerical Change From Previous Census	Percent of Change From Previous Census
1950	1,183	—	—
1960	2,287	1,104	93.3
1970	3,268	981	42.9
1980	3,438	170	5.2
Source: U.S. Bureau of Census			

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